

NEWS FROM Legislator

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Suffolk County Offers Free Rabies Clinics

(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY... May 9, 2016) – Suffolk Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) wants to inform residents that the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS), the Towns of Huntington and Babylon and the Suffolk County SPCA have scheduled free rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats and ferrets as follows:

Sunday, May 15, 2016
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Huntington Town Hall
100 Main Street, Huntington, NY

Saturday, May 21, 2016
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Babylon Town Hall
200 E Sunrise Highway, Lindenhurst, NY

The clinics are available to all county residents although the quantity of vaccine is limited and available only while supplies last. All dogs must be on leashes and all cats and ferrets must be in carriers.

Rabies, a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the central nervous system, is most often seen among wild animals such as raccoons, bats, skunks and foxes, but any mammal can be infected with rabies. Pets and livestock can get rabies if they are not vaccinated.

(more)

New York State and Suffolk County laws require that all dogs, cats and ferrets be vaccinated against rabies. Vaccinating pets not only provides protection for the animals but also acts as a barrier to keep the rabies virus from spreading between wild animals and people.

The SCDHS Bureau of Public Health Protection tests animals that are reported to be acting strangely or have come into contact with humans. Although a number of different animal species were tested in 2015, only bats tested positive for rabies. Of the 110 bats tested last year, three tested positive for rabies.

On March 24, 2016 the Nassau County Department of Health reported that a raccoon from Hicksville tested positive for rabies. This was the first positive raccoon found in Nassau County since 2007. Suffolk County's last recorded rabid raccoon was confirmed in January 2009. Between 2006 and 2009, rabies was identified in 19 raccoons near the Nassau-Suffolk border in the northwestern portion of the Town of Huntington.

Report all animal bites or contact with wild animals to the SCDHS at (631) 853-0333 weekdays, 9 am – 4:30 pm. Animal bites or contact with wild animals can be reported to (631) 852-4820 outside of normal business hours. If possible and safe, try to contain the animal so that it can be tested.

For more information on rabies, visit the New York State Department of Health website at <http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/> or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/>.

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Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro represents the 17th Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington, Huntington Station, South Huntington, Melville, West Hills, Cold Spring Hills, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is chairman of the Budget & Finance committee and a member of the Veterans committee of the Suffolk County Legislature.